



Los Gatos/Saratoga  
**Camera Club**  
www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

# Newsletter

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## ***Reminders***

### **End-of-Year Awards and Pot Luck Dinner**

The End-of-Year Awards dinner has been moved to January 26th, 2016, a Tuesday evening.

New sign-up sheets will be offered at the meetings preceding this event. You may also email Betty Toepfer your choice for the potluck dinner. (If you previously signed-up for this event, those sheets have been lost and you will need to sign up again.)

Please sign up for what you will provide for the potluck dinner: APPETIZER, SALAD, GRAIN/STARCH, VEGETABLE, MAIN DISH, DESSERT, BREAD/ROLLS & BUTTER, BEVERAGES & ICE.

Please also sign-up for set-up, take-down, clean-up.

Please note that each attendee must supply their own place setting.

### **Dues are Due**

It's that time of year... Membership dues are \$50.00 per calendar year and are due by January 1, 2016. These fees can be paid in person to the Membership team at any club meeting or to the Treasurer, Dick Stuart.

## ***Coming Club Events***

See the [Calendar](#) on our web site for updates or further details.

### **Saturday January 2, 2015**

11:30pm Projected Image Entry  
Deadline: Color, Monochrome,  
Photojournalism

### **Monday January 4, 2016**

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline  
7:15pm Print Entry Deadline  
Competition: Color, Monochrome,  
Photojournalism  
Judge: Terry Toomey

Refreshments: Vivian Miller, Sunil  
Mohan, Jack Moore

### **Monday January 18, 2016**

No Meeting

### **Monday January 25, 2016**

Program: [Joan Sparks](#) - Bald Eagles,  
Alaska

### **Tuesday January 26, 2016**

End-of-Year Awards and Pot Luck  
Dinner

### **Saturday January 30, 2015**

11:30pm Projected Image Entry  
Deadline: Color, Monochrome,  
Creative

## ***Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It***

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The judge was John Goyer. We asked the makers of the first place images to send stories about what their subject was, when and where the image was taken, how it was created (photographed and/or processed), and why they created it.

### **December 2015 First Place Travel Print**

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South Georgia Island is a large, snow-clad island in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica. It was also Ernest Shackleton's destination 800 miles away from where his crew was stranded on Elephant Island after their ship was crushed by the ice 100 years ago. Let's just say that we had a somewhat easier journey, albeit not a smooth one. When we finally stepped upon land we were greeted by a squawking King Penguin colony of some 70,000 birds. The scale and grandeur of the sight was beyond words.

Technical details: handheld, Nikon D800, 28-300mm lens at 52 mm, ISO 400, F14 at 1/500th sec. Cropped, with color and exposure enhancements in Lightroom CC2015.

***King Penguin Colony, Salisbury Plain, South Georgia Island***  
**Tim Meadows**

### **December 2015 First Place Monochrome Print**

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These decrepit boats are silent reminders of a former whaling operation on Deception Island near Antarctica. The island is a somewhat-active (last erupted in 1970) volcano in the shape of a doughnut with the center filled in by the sea. The area was striking with black lava sand beach and the white of the ice and snow.

Technical details: handheld, Nikon D800, 28-30mm lens at 82mm, ISO 200, 125th sec F16. Processed lightly in Lightroom CC2015 with conversion to monochrome and final edits in Silver Efex Pro 2.



***Frozen in Time***  
**Tim Meadows**

## December 2015 First Place Travel Digital Projected Image - Basic

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*Villagers Harvesting Rice in Chitwan National Park, Nepal*  
Mike Sabes

We were on a tour of Nepal this October and spent three days in the area of the Chitwan National Park in the south. The road we were on was lined with rice farms, we came across one field being hand harvested by maybe 25 women and boys. The colors of the rice field and the women's clothing were very photogenic. I was able to shoot this person while she was getting ready to place her cut stalks onto her pile.

Shot with a Fuji XT-1 Mirrorless with a 35mm F1.4 lens in late morning light.

## December 2015 First Place Travel Digital Projected Image - Advanced

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The Fall Colors photo was taken on an October 2015 trip to New Hampshire and Massachusetts. I'm not really a 'Fall Colors' type shooter, but I have two kids (and now grandkids) that live out there, and because the Fall is a nice time to visit and because the colors are spectacular, well, the scenery beckoned (plus, I just like visiting new places).

For three days, I drove the White Mountains Scenic Byways marveling at the tapestry of colors as the trees turned from green to orange and red. I was lucky and managed to be there within a week of the color peak change. Through the use of both online resources which inform as to color change timing and offline resources such as Photograph America Newsletter I knew the routes I wanted to travel. This image was taken at Franconia Notch State Park in NH, which is a stunning park to visit for its walkthrough of the Flume Gorge.

For this image, I wanted to capture the story of New England with the color changes and its covered bridges. It was taken on my Sony A7 at f4.0, ISO 320 and 1/200. I paid very close attention to 'border control' as so many of our judges have recommended, looking for anything that might be distracting or confusing. I was struck by three compositional aspects to what I saw: The first was color of the bridge against the yellow background. The second were the leading lines of the road which brought the eye from bottom, center right to a gentle curve off to the left.



*Fall colors with bridge over Pemigewasset River, New Hampshire*  
Gary Marcos

Lastly I was struck by the contrast of the white roof lines of the bridge against the organic and chaotic backdrop of the colorful foliage. I learn a lot listening to the judges because when shooting or giving a title to my pictures I always hear the voices of the judges talking to me.



## December 2015 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

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This image was done while I was standing in a parking lot on 1st street under 280 in downtown San Jose waiting for someone who was with me to get their shoes on so we could walk to an event at the convention center. If they had been ready I might not have even looked around there. So I'm glad they weren't. I waited for a person to enter the scene. I did some contrast adjustments in Camera Raw and then in Photoshop I changed the highway sign above to be a repetition of the scene below twice.

Equipment: Sony A7R2, Sony 24-240 at 55mm, 1/200 sec, f8, ISO 400

**Street Scene**  
**Howard Larsen**

## December 2015 First Place Color Print

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My Lightroom class had an outing to the Merced National Wildlife Refuge to shoot the sunset and a swarm of birds. I expected thousands and thousands of birds flying over the sunset. Unfortunately, there were not as many birds as I expected.

I tried to shoot the blue hour, after sun went down. After sun went down there were some birds flying in the sky. I caught the beautiful reddish pink sunset with blue sky and a few birds.

Canon 5D Mark III, 16mm-35mm, f/3.2, 1/250, 16.0mm, ISO 1600



**Flying Over Sunset**  
**Serena Hartoog**

## December 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced



Portal and Meteor  
Rick Whitacre

The famous "Hole in the Rock" portal at Pfeiffer State Beach with the Milky Way and stray Meteor. This is a nice alignment that occurs in the fall right before the best part of the Milky Way disappears for the winter. I have done this shot before, but used only natural lighting on the rock. This time, I used an LED panel light to illuminate the rock from the left side to bring out the textures. This is a blend of two images. One for the sky and the other for the rocks. Using two images allowed me to use f/2.8 and ISO3200 on the foreground for a sharper, cleaner image and use f/2 and ISO12,800 on the sky for more stars.

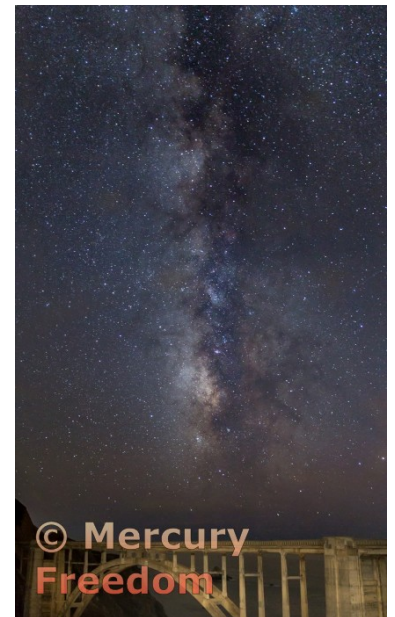
Sony A7S, Rokinon 24mm f/1.4. Foreground was light painted at 13 seconds, f/2.8, ISO3200. Sky was 13 seconds, f/2, ISO12,800

## December 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

Bixby Bridge (take 2...)  
Mercury Freedom

Rick Whitacre & Rex Naden offered an 'Astro-Landscape Photography' Workshop on a Sunday the 1st weekend of October. I attended -- great workshop from 2 outstanding guys who love photography and did everything they could to get us ready to shoot stars! As it happened, Kent Bossange a friend and club member also took the workshop -- and had a plan.... His idea was to head south after the workshop & look for the Milky Way over Bixby Bridge. This time of year is about as late in the year as we in the Northern Hemisphere have a good view of the Milky Way, as it starts to appear lower and lower in the sky -- at which time it's better viewed from the Southern Hemisphere. AND, that particular evening it became visible starting around 8:30, and was most visible between then and about 11 p.m. -- which was quite convenient -- you know, versus 3 a.m.!

I took the shot with a Canon 5D MkIII with a Tamron 24-70 mm f2.8 lens -- set at f2.8 with a 20 sec. exposure ... mounted on a tripod. We parked adjacent the bridge in a dirt parking area ... Kent found a steep path that took us part way down the canyon that gave us the best view of Bixby Bridge with the Milky Way above. ... A challenge, and interesting part of the shoot was waiting for no cars to be crossing the bridge! It turns out 20 seconds is a long time for no cars to be passing at that time of evening! Still, some of our shots with cars -- and a plane going overhead were interesting.



## Meet Virginia Robbins

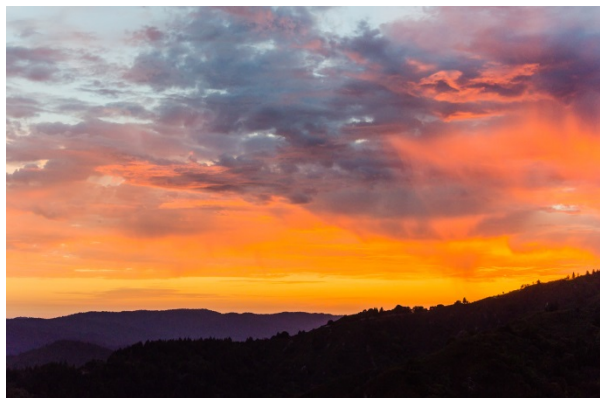
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I grew up on the east coast. From when I was about 12 until I went to college we lived in a rural part of New Jersey. Many people form their view of New Jersey from the Newark airport but it is called the Garden State for a reason! We lived on about 5 acres and had many animals, including horses (my first love!), sheep, chickens, ducks, turkeys, etc. I was in 4H in both the horse and sheep club. All the animals were more or less pets; we did not eat them. I've continued to love and enjoy animals my whole life which has led to a love of travel to view wildlife.



I always knew I wanted to be a scientist or engineer. I got my undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Delaware. I met my husband there. We were good friends but we did not date until years later. I went on to graduate school, also in Electrical Engineering, at the University of Illinois. Shortly after I started there, a corporate recruiter from Hewlett-Packard visited and gave me a glossy recruiting brochure. I saw a photo of their corporate research building nestled against the foothills in Palo Alto and said to myself "I want to work there!" Talk about the power of a photograph....! When I finally finished the graduate program, I did get a job offer there. I worked for HP and later Agilent in that building for 18 years (it is now Tesla headquarters) before spending the final decade of my career working for a couple of different start-ups. I've been retired for about 18 months now.

After having no contact for many years, my husband and I "met for the 2nd time" about 20 years ago. We started dating and have been married for 18 years. We love the outdoors. We are fortunate to live in the Los Gatos Mountains with miles of hiking trails right outside our door. We also get to watch spectacular sunsets which I never tire of photographing. We share a love of travel and do it as much as money and time will allow. For many years we did bicycling vacations until injuries forced us to switch to hiking. We've been to France, Italy, Greece, Costa Rica, Panama, almost all the Hawaiian Islands, Alaska, various places in Canada and of course around the continental USA. I've been to Africa a couple times without my husband, which makes him quite jealous. Last year we did a tour of the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica which was totally amazing. As I mentioned in the Dec. newsletter, it was also really inspiring and educational photographically.



Unlike most people in the camera club, I actually had almost no background or experience with photography until relatively recently. I went to Kenya in 1990. Before I left, a friend dragged me to a camera store and basically told me what to buy. I ended up with a pretty good film camera and telephoto lens. I really enjoyed going on safari and I did shoot quite a number of photos. Of course, since I had no idea what I was doing when I returned home and got the film

developed I saw they really weren't very good. So that was the end of my photography for years. I dabbled with a few point and shoots in the early digital days. Then in 2011 I was planning to go to Africa again with my sister. I planned to see mountain gorillas in Uganda and do a driving tour in Namibia, including Etosha National Park. Many friends and family members insisted I bring back photos. So I decided once again to buy a "real" camera. After spending weeks reading camera reviews, I bought my first DSLR.




Before I left for Africa I made my best photography investment ... I took the “San Francisco Zoo” workshop with Aperture Academy. Given my engineering background, it was pretty easy for me to learn how to operate the camera but that is quite a bit different from learning how to take a good photo. In that class I learned some really basic things like “focus on the animal’s eye”, minimum shutter speed to stop motion blur, etc. But knowing the basics had a huge impact on the quality of the photos I took on that trip. Most were at least OK with a few that I even thought were pretty good. I also loved the immediate feedback of digital photography. So I became quite enthusiastic about pursuing photography as a hobby.

However, after I returned from that trip I started a very demanding job at a small startup. I tried to continue doing some photography but my time and energy were quite limited. When I decided to retire in 2014, spending time to learn and improve my photography was one of my main goals. The other was to learn a second language. I must say, I’m doing much better with the photography than the language. I think the quality of the Aperture Academy courses and instructors is quite good so I have taken several more classes. I did the Death Valley workshop and the Dark Side workshop with them as well as a couple computer-based classes. This past summer I also took a class through Stanford Continuing Education called “Visualizing the Natural World through Photography”. The instructor had spent much of his career as a photojournalist, which I initially thought was odd for a nature photography class. However, I found the class extremely valuable for learning about how to “tell a story” through photography. Given the amazing technical capabilities of cameras these days and the number of photos out there, it really is the “story” that makes a photo capture attention. It is also extremely challenging to do this successfully.



The Stanford class also included weekly critiques of our photo assignments. I wanted to continue getting this sort of feedback on my photos. So I searched for camera clubs close to my home and found LGSCC! Even though I have only attended meetings for a few months I’ve learned a lot. I’ve been thrilled to have some of my photos receive recognition in the competitions. It is really interesting to hear how the different judges view photos. Obviously I have a great love for wildlife photography. In addition, I really would like to improve both my landscape and travel photography. I’ve been amazed and impressed by the skill of the other club members in these areas. Also, I was previously unaware of the entire genre of “creative” photography but now I find I really enjoy seeing these photos. So I’m looking forward to continuing to participate in the club in the coming year!

## Key Contacts

President	Membership	Webmaster	Newsletter	Official publication of the <a href="#">Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club</a> , a club member of the Photographic Society of America
John Perry 408-370-7229	Gary Marcos 408-741-5712	<a href="#">Jim Katzman</a> 408-867-6810	Airdrie Kincaid 408-247-3743	

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